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AAD 493

Mentors: Prof. Reis and Kathelene Smith

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Senior Honors Project:

Documenting ArtsGreensboro's History

My intention going into this project was to preserve, to the best of my ability, the historical scrapbooks housed at ArtsGreensboro, as well as recording data and organizing it in a fashion useful to ArtsGreensboro staff. I was to build a database which would list the scrapbooks, as well as apply for funding for archival materials. In the end, the project looked a lot different, but I succeeded in my main goal: to preserve and care for ArtsGreensboro's historical documents to ensure they can inform and inspire Greensboro's community for generations to come.

I began cataloging the scrapbooks, as was originally planned. I was able to complete profiles on nine different scrapbooks which included title (if available), dates, page number, condition reports, and other important metadata. Within the second week of my project, David Gwynn, Digital Projects Coordinator and Associate Professor at UNC Greensboro, was kind enough to offer his time by scanning the scrapbooks for me. Eventually, I was also able to bring 4 of the scrapbooks to SCUA to be digitized. I was then able to perform the appropriate post production work on the images so that they could be used later for my showcase omeka exhibit, which highlights significant photographs and history found through my research.

It was through this partnership with SCUA that I was able to facilitate the donation of ArtsGreensboro's historical materials to SCUA. This was a great win for the project, as it would ensure the scrapbooks were cared for better than I would have been able to. It did however mean there would be changes to my project, but I am happier with this result than the intended result.

As I mentioned, I was able to catalogue nine of the scrapbooks housed at ArtsGreensboro. Here, I will explain my recommendations for future care of the individual objects, should it benefit the Special Collections University Archives.

- *Funded Member Clippings: 1986-1990*

The Middle third of pages are stuck at the binding. On the pages, yellow frayed newspaper clippings are glued on to apparently stable white paper. The binding itself is relatively clean. I would recommend basic preservation techniques, such as interleaving pages with acid free, archival tissue to prevent further acid damage to the newspaper. Because some pages are stuck, if they cannot be cleaned, I recommend this book not be exhibited as pages could be torn.

- *No Title (City Stage Celebration).*

The binder was largely unaffected, though there was some foreign material

adhered to the back. The book was filled with white, stable paper with memorabilia such as newspaper clippings and correspondence glued onto pages. I would recommend a cleaning for the binder, and general steps taken to preserve the book. However, the condition of the book is stable enough that I can recommend this book be exhibited.

- *Arts Bash 1993*

As this scrapbook is made of genuine bonded leather, it will need alternative steps to ensure its preservation. Otherwise, the binder is in good condition and the photos are individually sleeved without adhesive and appear stable. I can also recommend this scrapbook be exhibited.

- *1951 Through 1953 Book I: Greensboro Opera Association Inc*

This scrapbook is in a delicate position. Part of the blue binding has fallen off, and the book is held together by a string. The pages have yellowed with age and become brittle. Clippings have been glued using non archival adhesive as have some of the photos. The photos are for the most part free of wear, though a few are dirty or ruined by glue. I recommend appropriate action taken to slow the acidification of the pages and protect the glued memorabilia, as well as a cleaning. I do not recommend this scrapbook be exhibited, as the scrapbook itself cannot be handled without causing further damage.

- *GSO Jazzfest: Misc Billboards African Heritage Ctr.*

This scrapbook has some loose pages, but the binder seems intact and photos are in good condition. In my opinion, only basic preservation is needed.

- *Arts Center Promotional slides and photos; Downtown Architecture Sternberger Artists Center VAC Board and Committee Members*

This scrapbook has sticky residue on some sleeves between negatives, as well as some loose pages. The photos are in sleeves, however, so they are generally protected. Overall, only general preservation is needed.

- *United Arts Council Photographs (Misc.)*

This scrapbook has damage across the back of the binder, as well as a sticky substance along the spine. Internally, photographs are well kept within sleeves, though the sleeves have paper dividers that are not archival. I recommend steps be taken to stabilize the scrapbook, but otherwise it appears in good condition. I can recommend this scrapbook be exhibited.

- *Greensboro Cultural Complex History Book: From Renaissance Campaign to Completion*

Similar to the previous report, this scrapbook is largely unaffected, though some sleeves are damaged. I can also recommend this scrapbook be exhibited.

- *Meetings/Festivals/Member Agencies/Photos/Slides*

While this scrapbook is generally clean, with only mild abrasion and residue, there are various envelopes and loose strips of film that could be lost or damaged if handled. As such, I do not recommend this scrapbook be exhibited, unless it is for display only.

History of ArtsGreensboro Timeline

ArtsGreensboro incorporated in 1960 as the Greensboro Community Arts Council, under its first president Sydney M. Cone Jr. (1960-62).

From 1962-64, the name was changed to The Greensboro Community Arts Council, Inc. Meetings were held at 605 N Elm St, in what is now the Fisher Park Historic District. George C. Eichhorn was the Arts Council's president at the time. Leicester I. Swindell succeeded him in 1967.

The name changed again in the 1970s, this time to the United Arts Council of Greater Greensboro, Inc. The council moved as well, to the "Arts Center" which is now the Sternberger Artist Center. According to their website, "ArtsGreensboro owns and operates the Sternberger Artist Center located at 712 Summit Avenue in Greensboro. Built in 1926 by Sigmund Sternberger, the treasurer of Revolution Mill, director of Cone Mills Corporation, and an active community member. The Center was donated in 1971 from the Sigmund Sternberger Foundation" (Sternberger Artists Center). Their Presidents over the decade were James Turner (70-71), George Norman Jr. (71-72), Ralph Edwards (72-73), and Douglas Orr (73-74), Elizabeth Cone (76-78), and Sam D. Hummel (1978-1979).

Since then, ArtsGreensboro has contributed to the arts and its community in a variety of ways. According to their website, "the arts council saved the historic Carolina Theatre, created Center City's Cultural Arts Center, produced the exciting City Stage Festival and Levitt AMP Music Series, presented the North Carolina Folk Festival, and currently owns and operates the Sternberger Artist Center and manages the Van Dyke Performance Space."

One of ArtsGreensboro's original member organizations is The Greensboro Opera Association (now known as simply "Greensboro Opera") incorporated in 1948. Through the years, it has brought performances such as "Hansel and Gretel" and "Cavalleria Rusticana" to Greensboro (Jones "Town and Gown"). The Arts Council still supports the Greensboro Opera today. The Greensboro Opera Association also helped fund the creation of the Greensboro War Memorial, which is now the Greensboro Coliseum, by donating to the Commission in the 1950s.

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